

REMARKS

This application is the United States National Stage of International Patent Cooperation Treaty Patent Application No. PCT/US03/39472, filed December 10, 2003, and claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/432,471, filed December 10, 2002.

The applicant upon compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §371(c) and to the extent that the applicant has filed this United States National Stage application earlier than 30 months from the earliest filed application on which priority has been claimed above, specifically makes a request under 35 U.S.C. § 371(f) for early processing.

For the examiner's convenience, a copy of the specification and drawings as filed with the International PCT Patent Application; a copy of the International PCT Patent Application as published under the PCT; a copy of the International Search Report; a copy of the PCT Demand; the Reply to the Written Opinion; and a copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report including substitute sheets 30-37, are enclosed with this United States National Stage Application.

As can be understood from these documents, in Chapter II, the applicant filed a Reply to the examiner's Written Opinion which included amended claims 1-57 submitted as substitute sheets 30-37 (the examiner however appears to have established the Preliminary Examination Report based on original filed claims 1-62). Of the original claims the examiner found that claims 4-15, 18-30, 32-55, and 58-62 each satisfied the criteria of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) as to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. Note that the claims filed in this National Stage by the applicant are claims 1-57 as amended in Chapter II as amended by this Preliminary Amendment.

Solely to expedite the examination of this application in the United States National Stage, the applicant has canceled claims 3-31, 34-36, 40-44, and 53-57, has amended claims 1, 32, 33, 37, 38, 39, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52, and has added new claims 58-66. The applicant does not waive any right, and specifically reserves the right, to have the

canceled claims, or other new claims supported by the description, or both, whether of similar or of greater breadth, examined in subsequent continuation application(s). The applicant further does not waive any right to rejoin method claims during the examination process which are of similar scope to the allowable composition claims.

CONCLUSION

The applicant submits this Preliminary Amendment to amend the specification of this United States National Stage application to include a claim of priority to and the benefit of earlier filed applications. The applicant has canceled claims 3-31, 34-36, 40-44, and 53-57 and respectfully requests examination of the remaining claims and newly added claims 58-66.

Dated this 10 day of June, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,
CR MILES, P.C.

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